

House Resolution 346 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Tankersley of the 160th, Carson of the 46th, Hitchens of the 161st, Burns of the 159th, and Parrish of the 158th

A RESOLUTION

1 Dedicating certain portions of the state highway system; and for other purposes.

2 **PART I**

3 WHEREAS, the lives of five nursing students from Georgia Southern University, Caitlyn
4 Baggett, Morgan Bass, Emily Clark, Abbie Deloach, and Catherine McKay Pittman, were
5 tragically cut short on Interstate 16 on April 22, 2015; and

6 WHEREAS, Caitlyn Baggett transferred to Georgia Southern University from East Georgia
7 State College, and this junior nursing student had a great love for children and planned to
8 work as a pediatric nurse; and

9 WHEREAS, a native of Millen, Georgia, Caitlyn was known by many as a small town girl
10 with a big personality and was a member of Oak Hill Baptist Church; and

11 WHEREAS, Morgan Bass was from Leesburg, Georgia, and was a member of the Alpha
12 Omicron Pi Sorority; and

13 WHEREAS, a compassionate and kind young woman, Morgan planned on becoming a nurse
14 anesthetist and wanted to work with babies; and

15 WHEREAS, a native of Powder Springs, Georgia, Emily Clark graduated with honors from
16 Harrison High School, where she was a cheerleader and loved spending her free time
17 volunteering to help those less fortunate; and

18 WHEREAS, Emily maintained a 4.0 grade point average while at Georgia Southern
19 University, was on both the President's and Dean's lists, and was a member of the executive
20 council for Alpha Delta Pi Sorority; and

21 WHEREAS, Abbie Deloach was from Savannah, Georgia, and graduated from Savannah
22 Christian Preparatory School, where she earned varsity letters in basketball, volleyball, and
23 track; and

24 WHEREAS, while at Georgia Southern University, Abbie joined Kappa Delta Sorority as
25 a legacy, where her leadership skills shone as recommendation chairperson and a member
26 of the homecoming step team; and

27 WHEREAS, a junior from Alpharetta, Georgia, Catherine McKay Pittman graduated from
28 Milton High School, where she was an exemplary member of the school's soccer team; and

29 WHEREAS, Catherine was president of Alpha Delta Chi Sorority, was active in mission
30 work, and served as a student ambassador, hosting recruits and prospective students on
31 behalf of Georgia Southern University; and

32 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that these remarkable Georgians be
33 recognized appropriately by dedicating a bridge in their memory.

34 **PART II**

35 WHEREAS, Mr. Patrick Price was born in Marietta, Georgia, the beloved son of Gene and
36 Paula Price; and

37 WHEREAS, Mr. Price was recognized by the citizens of this state for the vital role that he
38 played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of
39 Georgia as the Strategic Planning, Initiatives, and Innovations Coordinator for the State
40 Board of Pardons and Paroles; and

41 WHEREAS, a graduate of Lassiter High School, Mr. Price earned a bachelor's degree from
42 Kennesaw State University; and

43 WHEREAS, he passionately crusaded for the release of inmates who were wrongly serving
44 lengthy sentences for minor offenses and who met criteria under new legislation that made
45 them eligible for early release from prison; and

46 WHEREAS, known by many for his compassionate heart and bright smile, Mr. Price's
47 mission was to help inmates through his service as a peace officer and through his lobbying
48 efforts as a legislative liaison for the Board at the state capitol; and

49 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Price was an active member of First
50 Baptist Church of Woodstock where he taught fifth grade Sunday school and mentored
51 dozens of students for many years; and

52 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments and
53 contributions of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be recognized appropriately by
54 dedicating a bridge in his honor.

55 **PART III**

56 WHEREAS, Mr. James Bland, Sr., was born on December 3, 1921, and was a well-known
57 and beloved farmer in Clay County; and

58 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Bland served as a longtime member and
59 deacon at St. James AME Church and later joined the Pentecostal Church of God; and

60 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to Lula Bell McCrae in 1940, a union which
61 blessed him with five remarkable children, Eddie, Ruthie, Curtis, James, and Minnie; and

62 WHEREAS, Mr. Bland was a devoted community leader, teaching many young people of
63 Clay County on the importance of nature and the great outdoors; and

64 WHEREAS, he served as a role model to others, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that
65 the outstanding accomplishments and contributions of this remarkable and distinguished
66 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating a bridge in his memory.

67 **PART IV**

68 WHEREAS, the G.L. Huff family of Gilmer County, Georgia, has a rich history and tradition
69 of service to the community; and

70 WHEREAS, Mr. G.L. Huff, Sr., was born on May 1, 1905, in Carroll County, Georgia, the
71 beloved son of William Levi Huff and Mary Elizabeth Bonner Huff; and

72 WHEREAS, Mr. Huff, Sr., served as mayor of the City of Ellijay, where his leadership and
73 foresight were instrumental in the city's purchase of a water treatment plant, construction of
74 a sewage treatment plant, and the building of a reservoir, helping to ensure adequate water
75 supply for the city during periods of population growth; and

76 WHEREAS, during his tenure as mayor, Mr. Huff, Sr., supported infrastructure expansion
77 through the paving of numerous streets and aided in housing development efforts by
78 approving the construction of low-rent and elderly housing as chairman of the Ellijay
79 Housing Authority; and

80 WHEREAS, born on August 25, 1928, Mr. G.L. Huff, Jr., was a pharmacist at Watson Drug
81 Store in Ellijay and went on to serve as co-owner of Ellijay Drug Store and Huff Bros., Inc.;
82 and

83 WHEREAS, Mr. Huff, Jr., played a major role in aviation in Gilmer County, building the
84 city's first airstrip in the 1960s; and

85 WHEREAS, he spearheaded the construction of and fundraising for a sports stadium for
86 Gilmer High School, named the Huff-Mosely Memorial Stadium; and

87 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished family
88 be recognized appropriately by dedicating a road in its memory.

89 **PART V**

90 WHEREAS, Reverend John D. McDaniel was a longtime resident of Fannin County,
91 Georgia, where he lived until his passing in 1913; and

92 WHEREAS, Reverend McDaniel served as Fannin County's first commissioner of education,
93 now known as county superintendent of schools, a position which required him to perform
94 certification tests for teachers, issue teaching licenses, assign teachers to particular schools,
95 advise teachers on job opportunities, and communicate information regarding county schools
96 to the public; and

97 WHEREAS, at the time he held this esteemed position, Fannin County had an average of
98 only one teacher per school and he earned a salary of roughly \$3 per day for his service; and

99 WHEREAS, Reverend McDaniel represented Fannin County in the Georgia General
100 Assembly from 1893 to 1897 as a member of the House of Representatives where he gained
101 notoriety for his successful efforts to obtain national grave markers for Southerners who
102 served in the Civil War, a laudable feat given his known views as a pacifist; and

103 WHEREAS, he was a driving force behind the movement to change Fannin County's seat
104 from Morganton to Blue Ridge; and

105 WHEREAS, Reverend McDaniel secured funding for construction of the bridge at
106 Fightingtown Creek, which was often ravaged by floodwaters and so became known
107 throughout the area as the "Lost Bridge"; and

108 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments and
109 sacrifices of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be recognized appropriately by
110 dedicating a bridge in his memory.

111 **PART VI**

112 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia continues to mourn the loss of one of its most distinguished
113 citizens with the passing of Mr. Benjamin "Benny" Norton Whitaker on August 13, 2015;
114 and

115 WHEREAS, a native of Gilmer County, Georgia, Mr. Whitaker was born on
116 September 1, 1927, the beloved son of Cecil and Ovaline Norton Whitaker; and

117 WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker was well known and respected for his leadership and guidance
118 as a Gilmer County commissioner and state representative for the 7th District; and

119 WHEREAS, known as the "Common Man Candidate" and "Common Sense Candidate," Mr.
120 Whitaker diligently and conscientiously served the citizens of Gilmer County as county
121 commissioner from 1972 to 1988 and as a state representative from 1992 to 1998; and

122 WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker spent 28 years in the produce business, in which he developed
123 a fiscal responsibility which transferred to his leadership as a county and state representative,
124 where he demonstrated great care to save the county money; and

125 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in securing property for a new public library and the site
126 of Dalton State College satellite campus, helped oversee the building of the Whitepath Golf
127 Course and Gilmer County Civic Center, and worked with the state transportation board for
128 the construction of Highway 515; and

129 WHEREAS, his diligent efforts led to the extension of a natural gas line to Ellijay, the
130 organization of Gilmer County's first official fire department, and the construction of Gilmer
131 County's first senior citizen center; and

132 WHEREAS, during his tenure with the General Assembly, Mr. Whitaker sponsored
133 numerous pieces of legislation that uplifted the North Georgia mountain communities and
134 state, including the establishment of the Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
135 program, secured funding for court record modernization, and support of the North Georgia
136 Medical Center; and

137 WHEREAS, during his time with the General Assembly, Mr. Whitaker sponsored and led
138 the passage of a law requiring visible identification on all vehicles owned by the state; and

139 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
140 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating an intersection in his memory.

141 **PART VII**

142 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
143 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Chief Frank McClelland, Jr., in September,
144 2018; and

145 WHEREAS, Chief McClelland served as Police Chief for the City of Ludowici and was
146 highly regarded by the citizens of his community and state and by local government officials
147 as a person of unquestioned integrity and dedication to the sound principles of law
148 enforcement; and

149 WHEREAS, Chief McClelland's life was cut short in the line of duty when a motorist fleeing
150 arrest lost control of his vehicle and struck this dedicated law enforcement officer as he was
151 directing the traveling public away from harm; and

152 WHEREAS, Chief McClelland exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding loyalty,
153 fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties and it is abundantly fitting
154 and proper that this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be recognized appropriately by
155 dedicating a road in his memory.

156 **PART VIII**

157 WHEREAS, Mr. Robert "Bob" Paul Hanner, Sr., was born on April 19, 1945, in Americus,
158 Georgia, a beloved son of Jack and Yip Hanner; and

159 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
160 States Coast Guard, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during the
161 Vietnam War; and

162 WHEREAS, Mr. Hanner was dedicated to a life of civil servitude; he was the vice president
163 of the Georgia Jaycees, the president of the local Jaycees, and a Georgia State Representative
164 from 1975 until his retirement in 2013; and

165 WHEREAS, he served on a number of committees during his time with the General
166 Assembly, including as Chairman of the Department of Natural Resources; Chairman of the
167 Game, Fish, and Parks Committee; and Chairman of the Reapportionment Committee; and

168 WHEREAS, his involvement with the board of the Terrell County Chamber of Commerce,
169 the Statewide Water Management Commission, and the Main Street Theater is further
170 testimony to his commitment to his community; and

171 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Hanner was an active member of the First
172 Baptist Church of Dawson; and

173 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Linda, and was blessed with
174 three remarkable children, Robert, Jr., Jeff, and Matt; and two wonderful grandchildren,
175 Robert III and Maxwell; and

176 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
177 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
178 family and friends were admired by others; and

179 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments and
180 contributions of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be recognized appropriately by
181 dedicating a bridge in his memory.

182 **PART IX**

183 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas Morton Fort, Jr., was born on February 1, 1923, in Vienna,
184 Georgia, the beloved son of Gladys Davis Fort and Thomas Morton Fort, Sr., and owned and
185 operated Fort Oil Co., Inc., in Lumpkin, Georgia, until his retirement in 1989; and

186 WHEREAS, a graduate of Lumpkin High School, Mr. Fort attended North Georgia College
187 before volunteering to serve as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
188 States Army Air Corps during World War II; and

189 WHEREAS, Mr. Fort was serving as a B-17 pilot based in Foggia, Italy, when his plane was
190 shot down on June 16, 1944, during a mission over Vienna and he was captured in
191 Yugoslavia; and

192 WHEREAS, this courageous and selfless American hero spent 11 months in prisoner of war
193 camps in Poland and Germany; and

194 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Fort was a member of Lumpkin United
195 Methodist Church and its administrative board; and

196 WHEREAS, Mr. Fort's leadership and guidance were instrumental to numerous
197 organizations, including the Dawson Camp of Gideons International, Georgia Department
198 of Ex-Prisoners of War, Valley Chapter of Ex-Prisoners of War, Andrew College Board of
199 Trustees, and Board of Directors for Farmers State Bank; and

200 WHEREAS, he was a 50 year member of both the Cross Lodge #173 F&AM and the
201 Lumpkin Lions Club; and

202 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments and
203 contributions of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be recognized appropriately by
204 dedicating a bridge in his memory.

205

PART X

206 WHEREAS, Mr. Charles "Chuck" Ware, Sr., was born on April 7, 1930, in East Chicago,
207 Indiana, the beloved son of Claude, Sr., and Bettie Ware; and

208 WHEREAS, after successful careers at Teamsters and Georgia Power, Mr. Ware worked
209 tirelessly as a community leader and advocate; and

210 WHEREAS, he dedicated his time, talent, and energy to lobbying at the Georgia capitol and
211 in local communities to increase voter turnout and registered thousands of voters; and

212 WHEREAS, known for his signature white hat, Mr. Ware was a beloved advocate for
213 seniors, always ready to provide a voice for others in support of issues important to the aging
214 community; and

215 WHEREAS, Mr. Ware's tireless efforts were recognized with numerous accolades and
216 awards, including a Distinguished Older Georgian Award from the Georgia Council on
217 Aging and a Martha Eaves Award from the Atlanta Regional Commission; and

218 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
219 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating a road in his memory.

220

PART XI

221 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia continues to mourn the loss of one of its most distinguished
222 citizens with the passing of the Honorable Grace Wilkerson Davis on May 3, 2011; and

223 WHEREAS, Representative Davis was united in love and marriage to Curtis Davis and was
224 blessed with a remarkable son, Curtis Davis, Jr., two wonderful grandchildren, and two
225 adored great-grandchildren; and

226 WHEREAS, while in New York, Representative Davis got her first taste of politics while
227 working for the election of John Lindsay as the city's mayor in 1965; and

228 WHEREAS, she moved back to Georgia in the late 1960s and began working at WAOK
229 radio station as a controller and accountant, and she became involved with the Civil Rights
230 Movement after the leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Representative

231 Tyrone Brooks, along with other members showed up at the station to show support for the
232 African American staff; and

233 WHEREAS, she accompanied Representative Brooks and others in a motorcade to Plains to
234 protest President Jimmy Carter's firing of the United Nations Ambassador, Andrew Young;
235 and

236 WHEREAS, the Honorable Grace Davis was an outspoken advocate in the Georgia House
237 of Representatives from 1987 to 1998; and

238 WHEREAS, Representative Davis was credited with successfully shepherding a bill to
239 passage that slapped stiffer controls on mortgage refinance practices, which prevented
240 hundreds of low-income homeowners from losing their homes; and

241 WHEREAS, she also won passage of her bill to create a Georgia commission on the status
242 of women, which mandated the study of state laws and policies to recommend more educated
243 approaches for dealing with women's issues; and

244 WHEREAS, Representative Davis was appointed project director of the Aging Services
245 Division in Georgia's Department of Human Services, a position she held for four years; and

246 WHEREAS, she gave inspiration to many through her high ideals, morals, and deep concern
247 for her fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding she demonstrated to
248 her family and friends were admired by others; and

249 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Representative Davis will long be
250 remembered for her love of family and friendship, and this loyal daughter, wife, mother,
251 grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune
252 of knowing her; and

253 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments and
254 contributions of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be recognized appropriately by
255 dedicating a bridge in her memory.

256

PART XII

257 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
258 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the northern bridge on U.S. 280 over Interstate 16 at exit
259 143 in Bryan County is dedicated as the Georgia Southern Nursing Angels Memorial Bridge.

260 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on Highway 92 east of
261 I-575 that spans Noonday Creek in Cherokee County is dedicated as the Patrick Price
262 Memorial Bridge.

263 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on State Route 39 over
264 Drag Nasty Creek in Clay County is dedicated as the James Bland, Sr., Memorial Bridge.

265 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Georgia Highway 52
266 East from First Avenue to Greenfield Road in Gilmer County is dedicated as the G.L. Huff
267 Family Memorial Highway.

268 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on Highway 515 over Ada
269 Street in Blue Ridge, Georgia, is dedicated as the John D. McDaniel Bridge.

270 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of State Route 515
271 and First Avenue in Gilmer County is dedicated as the Ben Whitaker Intersection.

272 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of U.S. Highway 84 from
273 the eastern corporate limits of the City of Ludowici to the Long County/Liberty County line
274 is dedicated as the Chief Frank McClelland, Jr., Memorial Highway.

275 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on State Route 45 over
276 Bear Creek in Terrell County is rededicated as the Kennedy and Hanner Bridge.

277 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on State Route 1
278 southbound over Hod Chod-Kee Creek in Stewart County is dedicated as the Thomas Morton
279 Fort, Jr., Memorial Bridge.

280 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of State Route 138 from
281 State Route 85 to US 19/US 41 is dedicated as the Charles Ware, Sr., Memorial Highway.

282 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on Interstate 85 over
283 Metropolitan Parkway in Fulton County is dedicated as the Grace W. Davis Memorial
284 Bridge.

285 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
286 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the road facilities named in this
287 resolution.

288 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
289 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
290 Department of Transportation and to the families of Caitlyn Baggett, Morgan Bass, Emily
291 Clark, Abbie Deloach, Catherine McKay Pittman, Mr. Patrick Price, Mr. James Bland, Sr.,
292 G.L. Huff, Reverend John D. McDaniel, Mr. Benjamin "Benny" Norton Whitaker, Chief
293 Frank McClelland, Jr., Mr. Robert "Bob" Paul Hanner, Sr., Thomas Morton Fort, Jr., Mr.
294 Charles "Chuck" Ware, Sr., and the Honorable Grace Wilkerson Davis.